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Serial No. 10/089,271

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to avoid having a multiple dependent claim depend on another multiple dependent claim.

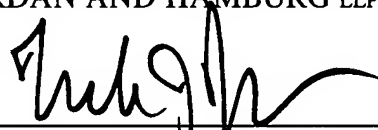
The specification is amended to correct various typographical, grammatical and idiomatic informalities, and to place the application into proper conformance with U.S. patent practice.

It is respectfully requested that the first Official Action be directed to the application as amended herein.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix I (Amended Claims with Amendments Indicated
Therein by Brackets and Underlining)

Appendix II (Amended Specification Paragraphs with
Amendments Indicated Therein by Brackets and Underlining)

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APPENDIX I**AMENDED CLAIMS WITH AMENDMENTS INDICATED THEREIN
BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING**

3. (Amended) The method of [claims 1 or 2] claim 1, wherein the peroxide aerosol, before it is introduced into the bottles, is heated to a temperature of about 60° to 90°C and preferably of about 70° to 80°C as the starting temperature for the sterilization.

4. (Amended) The method of [one of the claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the peroxide aerosol, before it is blown into the bottles, is introduced into flowing sterile air, which has been heated to an activation temperature and heated by the latter to the sterilization starting temperature on the way to the interior of the bottles.

5. (Amended) The method of [one of the claims 1 to 3] claim 1, wherein the peroxide aerosol and the sterile air are kept separate until they enter the interior of the bottles.

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6. (Amended) The method of [one of the claims 1 to 5] claim 1, wherein the introduction of peroxide aerosol into the interior of the bottles is carried out in at least two separate, consecutive steps.

7. (Amended) The method of [one of the claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein, following the blowing in of peroxide aerosol, at least one pause in the action, corresponding to at least one conveying cycle of the bottles, precedes the blowing of sterile air, heated to the activation temperature, into the interior of the bottles.

8. (Amended) The method of [one of the claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein sterile air is blown in in at least two separate steps, corresponding in each case to one conveying cycle of the bottles.

9. (Amended) The method of [one of the claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein the sterile air is heated to an activation temperature of about 90° to 120°C and preferably of about 110°C.

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10. (Amended) The method of [one of the claims 1 to 9] claim 1, wherein, after sterile air heated to the activation temperature has been blown in, sterile air, which has been heated to a lower temperature, is blown in in subsequent, separate processes.

12. (Amended) The method of [one of the claims 1 to 11] claim 1, wherein the sterile air, which has been heated to the activation temperature, is blown at the rate of about 25 to 30 m/s and preferably of about 28 m/s into the interior of the bottles.

13. (Amended) The method of [one of the claims 1 to 12] claim 1, wherein the sterile air is blown in at a lower temperature with a flow rate of about 70 to 90 m/s and preferably of about 80 m/s into the interior of the bottles.

14. (Amended) The method of [one of the claims 1 to 12] claim 1, wherein sterile air is blown in over a period of 1 to 3 seconds and preferably of about 2 seconds.

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15. (Amended) The method of [one or more of the claims 1 to 14]
claim 1, wherein about 0.15 ml of peroxide per 100 cm² of interior surface of the
bottles is introduced into the latter.

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APPENDIX II**AMENDED SPECIFICATION PARAGRAPHS WITH AMENDMENTS
INDICATED THEREIN BY BRACKETS AND UNDERLINING**

Page 1: between the title and the 1st full paragraph, insert the
following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

 between the 2nd and 3rd full paragraph, insert the following
heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

 4th full paragraph, delete in its entirety:

[The inventive method is accomplished by the distinguishing features of
claim 1. For further developments, reference is made to claims 2 to 15.]

Page 2: 2nd full paragraph, change to read as follows:

Further details and effects of the object of the invention arise [out] from of
the following description [of the course of, the method by means of a sketch, which
illustrates the periodic passage of groups of bottles through a sterilization station
of the inventive type.] and the accompanying drawings.

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between the 2nd and 3rd paragraph, insert the following paragraphs:

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Fig. 1 illustrates the periodic passage of groups of bottles through a sterilization station.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS: